Under the new training programme started by Government, the number of IAS officers who have attended the one week refresher courses and 4-week training programme is as follows :

1985-86 . . .	3480
1986-87 . . .	3398
1987-88 . . .	3138
1988-89 . . .	3084

So far 1250 IPS officers have undergone the in-service training under the new training programme.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the statement.

Statement

IAS

The one week refresher courses and 4 week training programmes organised for IAS officers is in pursuance of the Government decision to restructure civil service training to develop competence and a work culture suited to the service of the people. An evaluation of the one week refresher courses was commissioned on two training experts independently. In their reports submitted in February 1987, they recommended the continuance of the courses with certain modifications in the objective and training methodology which have since been carried out.

A Committee under the Chairmanship of a Member, Planning Commission was constituted in July, 1988 to evaluate the 4 weeks programmes. The Committee in its report has appreciated the knowledge and skills brought by these programmes to bear on the diverse challenges of development work that IAS officers are charged with.

IPS

The new Training Programmes have enabled IPS officers to improve their performance and efficiency in the field which is a direct benefit to the Administration. As such no formal evaluation of the benefits which have accrued to the administration as a result of this training programme has been made.

No proposal is pending to undertake such an evaluation for the present.

Backwardness in the country

808. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that vast pockets of backwardness continued to exist in the country, according to the latest figures, despite almost 40 years of planned development;

(b) if so, the extent of disparity which exists between the most developed and the least developed States in the country in terms of indices of economic progress ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government during the 8th Five Year Plan to correct this imbalance ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) A number of schemes and programmes such as drought prone area programme (DPAP), desert development programme (DDP), tribal sub plan (TSP), hill areas development plan (HADP), employment programmes etc., have been taken on hand to accelerate the development of backward regions in the country. Certain pockets, however, still continue to be backward due to several factors such as difference in resource endowment, disparities in availability of infrastructural facilities, physiographic factors and geographical conditions.

(b) Statements indicating State wise per capita income at constan prices and number of percentage of population below the poverty line are annexed [*See* Appendix CLI,

Annexure No. 65 and 66]. These would convey an idea of dispartities between various States.

(c) Eighth Plan is yet to be finalised. Reduction of regional disparities would continue to receive special attention of Government in the Eighth Plan.

Post offices and telephone facilities in Uttar Pradesh

809. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of new post offices opened in Uttar Pradesh during the current year ; and

(b) what is the number of villages in Uttar Pradesh provided with telephone facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) During the period 1-4-1989 to 30-6-1989, 259 new post offices were opened in Uttar Pra desh.

(b) During the same period, telephone facilities were provided in 5 villages.

AIDS cases

810. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state what was the number of AIDS cases detected in the country during the last two months ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : One full blown AIDS case (foreigner) has been detected in the country during the last two months and the patient had died.

Payment of prorata wages to extra departmental employees

811. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2837 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th March, 1989 and state :

(a) the average total amount of prorata wages paid to an Extra Departmental Mailman working in New Delhi RMS and Madras TMO for performing additional duties beyond five hours for the period from 1-1-88 to 30-6-89 ; and

(b) whether prorata wages would also be paid to the other extra departmental employees on the same pattern for performing duties beyond five hours ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The information is given below :

(i) *In New Delhi RMS*—The average amount paid to an Extra Departmental Mailman for the additional duties as casual labour is Rs. 383·60 P.M.

(ii) *In Madras TMO*—No Extra-Departmental agent is brought on duty beyond 5 hour. Hence the payment is 'NIL'.

(b) In the exigencise of service, Extra-Departmental Employees when required to work outside their working hours can be engaged as casual labourers add paid for such work at the rates applicable for the casual labourers.

Absorption of E.D. employees

812. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state what